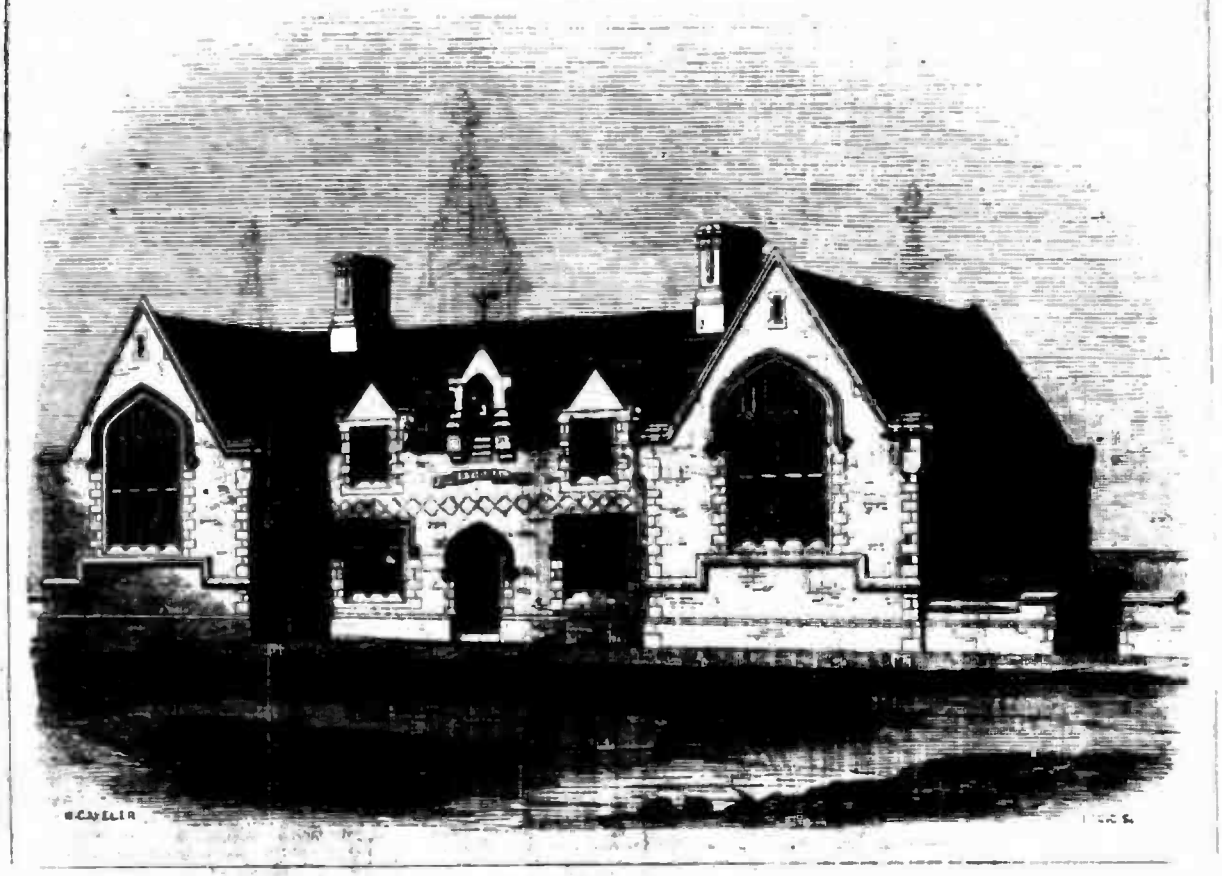
TRINITY SCHOOLS, MARGATE.



absurd fallacy of rearing a handsome structure, and begrudging the needful cost of a suitable site and approaches to display it to full advantage.

If some of our economical legislators would bestow more attention in securing to our national works the utmost completeness of design in the first instance, and then address themselves to reducing the estimates to the lowest cost compatible with the carrying out of this principle, the public would have less reason to complain of the misapplication of the funds devoted to such purposes.

As it is, with all our boasted love of the arts, and the continued advancement of the great bulk of the people in knowledge, and civilization and taste, many of our more popular leaders seem determined to act rather as checks and drawbacks upon this spirit, than as guides and helpers to its full development. Such works are necessarily attended with great cost; but as manual labour enters so largely into their construction, the industrious mechanic and artisan has his full share of the advantage, and there is no music so grateful to his ear, or conveys more solace to the heart, than the sound of the hammer or the chink of the trowel. After all, what seems chiefly wanting to secure to the community the full benefit of labour thus employed on behalf of the public is, less of the partisan, and more of the statesman spirit among our legislators.

Ancient Pictures.—A portion of a very interesting collection of ancient pictures, made chiefly in Italy, by the late Mr. John Noble, F.S.A., is to be sold by auction on the 11th. It includes a grand picture by Guido, "The Birth of St. John," from the Zampieri Palace, at Bologna, which ought unquestionably to be obtained for the National Gallery, and some capital examples by Breughel, Mignard, Ruysdael, A del Sarto, Vasari, and Canaletti.

Monument to Cowper.—It is proposed to erect a monument in honour of Cowper the poet, in Westminster Abbey, from a design by Mr. W. C. Marshall, A.R.A., exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1849.

TRINITY CHURCH SCHOOLS, MARGATE.

For a length of time past there has been a great want of school accommodation in Margate, the only schools which afforded any education to the children of the poor being those in connection with St. John's Church: great efforts have of late been made to supply this want. On New Year's Day, schools were opened for the accommodation of about 400 children, to be educated on what is known as the British and Foreign system, and open to every religious sect: these schools were erected under the superintendence of Mr. Caveler, who is now engaged in the erection of schools, with a residence for a master, in connection with Trinity Church: of the latter we present an engraving. The boys' school, with the adjoining class-room, will accommodate 172 children; the girls' school, with its class-room, 128. Each school will have a lobby for cloaks and hats, and a yard in the rear, with all requisite offices. The master's house will consist of a living-room, kitchen, scullery, and three sleeping-rooms, with yards and offices in the rear.

The buildings are of brick, with stone dressings: the school-rooms will have open timber roofs, covered with white tile. The whole expense of the building (exclusive of the cost of site) will be 1,033*l.*

Calf Torturing.—In addition to the information given in the "Day in Derby," you may state that the days of the "calf torturer" are numbered there. A letter, which appeared in your columns some months since, was copied into the *Mercury* and *Reporter*, and has called up a discussion and paper war. The result is, that the butchers have come to the determination of killing *veal* as they do *mutton*, and they call upon the public to support them in their resolve, being themselves disgusted by the extreme agony endured by that innocent animal. Thus, Mr. Builder, the remarks in your pages work good in many ways; and not only improve and exalt the status of the profession, but refine and purify the mind of the public.—Wm. Wiggington.

FRENCH FURNITURE IN ENGLAND.

I am anxious to draw your attention to a growing evil, affecting the manufacturing and working classes of this country to an enormous degree. I refer to the daily sales of French household furniture, decorations, &c. The people of this country have no idea of the extent to which the system is carried and encouraged by a great many who are going about the land crying out for protection. Many a manufacturer mourns in silence, afraid to complain; while the working classes are perfectly ignorant of what is going on at the different auction-rooms at the west-end of the town.

Whether articles which I recently saw knocked down could be produced in this country at the prices sold is a question, but that the nobility and gentry pay more for them than for articles of the same kind of English manufacture is certain, passing, as they almost invariably do, through the hands of several parties, who must each derive a profit. The infatuation which possesses the higher classes, and many of the middle classes too, with regard to French furniture, is extraordinary, for nothing but the metalwork saves it from total condemnation, as its workmanship is very indifferent and its character devoid of the slightest novelty. In a recent sale I could have shown that every attempt of that quality was a signal failure, particularly as regards plain simple furniture, of which the English manufacturers are obliged and do exhibit a constantly varying stock to please their customers, far surpassing in novelty of design and goodness of workmanship the furniture of any country in the world. I do not refer to what is seen in shop windows, but to what is quietly made by respectable manufacturers; but they cannot get the metalwork which produces, like the serpent's eye, the fascination, nor can they get their china with its beautiful blue, but wretched groups of showy figures—there 's the rock on which they split,—but showing that we only want modellers and brass manufacturers to beat our neighbours out of the field. Their ornamental modellers and china painters certainly excel ours, but

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